

Applicant: Blackburn, et al. Serial No.: 09/682,732

Filed: October 11, 2001 Page: 2 of 7

Amendments to the Claims:

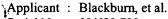
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims**:

1.	(Canceled)
1.	(Caricereu)

- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Canceled)
- 9. (Canceled)
- 10. (Currently Amended) An removable insert for footwear consisting of:
- a <u>flat</u> single stainless steel sheet <u>having a uniform thickness of approximately 0.020-0.025</u> inches;





Serial No.: 09/682,732 Filed: October 11, 2001

Page : 3 of 7

Attorney's Docket No.: 16707-002001

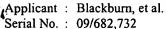
a polyurethane layer, shaped to the contour of the bottom of a foot and including orthotic supports and a metatarsal support region therein, disposed over the single stainless steel sheet; and

an air and water permeable membrane secured to the shaped molded polyurethane layer.

## 11. (Canceled)

- 12. (Previously Presented) The insert of claim 10, wherein the polyurethane layer is further characterized by a lip that extends upwardly and outwardly relative to the single stainless steel sheet.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The insert of claim 12, wherein the polyurethane layer includes forms a bottom perimeter that is approximately equal to a perimeter of the single stainless steel sheet.
  - 14. (Canceled)
  - 15. (Canceled)
  - 16. (Canceled)
  - 17. (Canceled)
  - 18. (Canceled)
  - 19. (Canceled)
  - 20. (Canceled)

Attorney's Docket No.: 16707-002001



Filed : October 11, 2001

Page : 4 of 7

21. (Currently Amended) An insert for footwear comprising exactly three-layered insert configured to be removably placed into footwear, the insert consisting of:

a single, <u>flat</u>, planar stainless steel sheet having a <u>uniform</u> thickness between 0.020 and 0.025 inches;

a cushion layer-disposed over the single stainless steel sheet, shaped to the contour of the bottom of a foot and including orthotic supports and a lip portion that extends upwardly and outwardly relative to the single stainless steel sheet, over which the cushion layer is disposed; and

a membrane secured to the cushion layer; and wherein said insert is removable and insertable into a shoe.

- 22. (Canceled)
- 23. (Currently Amended) The insert of claim 22 21, wherein the cushion layer includes has a bottom perimeter that is approximately equal to a perimeter over the single stainless steel sheet and further comprises a metatarsal support region integrated with the cushion layer.
- 24. (New) A three-layer protective, orthotic device for a shoe that is configured to be removably inserted therein, the three layers comprising a protective layer means, an orthotic layer means, and a membrane layer means, each disposed, respectively, over the previous layer, wherein:

the protective layer means consists of a flat piece of stainless spring steel of a uniform thickness between 0.020 and 0.025 inches and stamped in the shape of a foot; and

the orthotic layer means consists of a variable thickness polyurethane having a shape configured to provide support to the bottom of a foot including a metatarsal support region, and a lip portion around the perimeter of the orthotic layer configured to support the sides of a foot positioned on the protective, orthotic device.

